

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

initializing a program on a file server through administrator action to activate the program, the program being capable of creating an account without further administrator action;

requesting the account from a requestor on a client, the requestor being activated through administrator action and capable of bypassing communication to an administrator; and

processing a request for the account wherein the program is capable of processing the request and bypassing an intervening administrator action;

wherein processing the request further includes,

checking for mode enablement to determine if the requestor has permission to request the account, and

checking for an account limitation to determine if a maximum number of accounts created has been reached.

2. (Original) A method of claim 1, wherein initializing the program includes activating the program, the program being capable of operating continuously.

3. (Original) A method of claim 1, wherein requesting the account includes transmitting an account identifier to the program.

4. (Original) A method of claim 1, wherein processing the request includes executing operations when the program receives an account identifier.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 4, wherein processing the request further includes resolving the account identifier and manipulating security tokens to encrypt the account identifier and an account password.

7. (Original) A method of claim 4, wherein processing the request further includes creating a directory and configuring software settings.

8. (Original) A method of claim 7, wherein creating a directory includes allocating locations on a directory tree structure.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for account creation without administrator intervention, comprising:

initializing a program through administrator action to activate the program, the program being capable of monitoring a network connection for an account request and capable of creating an account without further administrator action;

receiving the account request from a software agent and authenticating an account identifier for a new account; and

processing the account request by creating a location in a structure managed by an operating system for maintaining accounts;

wherein processing the account request further includes,

checking for mode enablement to determine if a requestor of the account has permission to request the account, and

checking for an account limitation to determine if a maximum number of accounts created has been reached.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for creating an account without an administrator action, comprising:

a requestor operating on a client, the client being coupled to a connector, wherein the requestor is capable of requesting the account;

a network attached storage (NAS) device coupled to the connector, the NAS device being capable of storing the account; and

a program capable of continuous operation on a file server, the program being activated through administrator action, the file server being coupled to the connector, wherein the program is capable of monitoring a connection point for a request to create the account and subsequently creating the account without further administrator action;

wherein creating the account further includes,

checking for mode enablement to determine if the requestor has permission to request the account, and

checking for an account limitation to determine if a maximum number of accounts created has been reached.

11. (Original) A system for creating an account without an administrator action of claim 10, further comprising a database for authenticating an account identifier.

12. (Original) A system for creating an account without an administrator action of claim 11, wherein the program is coupled to the database.

13. (Original) A system for creating an account without an administrator action of claim 11, further comprising a directory in a directory tree structure.

14. (Original) A system for creating an account without an administrator action of claim 13, wherein the program initiates at least one process to create the directory.

15. (Currently Amended) A network, comprising:

- a first computer coupled to a network connector, the first computer being capable of requesting the creation of an account;
- a second computer coupled to the network connector;
- a network attached storage (NAS) device coupled to the network connector, the NAS device being capable of storing the account; and
- a program residing in the second computer, the program being activated through administrator action, wherein the program creates the account without further administrator action, wherein creating the account further includes,
  - checking for mode enablement to determine if a requestor in the first computer has permission to request the account, and
  - checking for an account limitation to determine if a maximum number of accounts created has been reached.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A network of claim 15, further comprising a database coupled to the network connector, the database capable of providing data to authenticate an account identifier.

18. (Original) A network of claim 15, wherein the network connector is capable of facilitating file sharing.

19. (Original) A network of claim 16, further comprising a directory in a directory structure.

20. (Original) A network of claim 19, wherein the directory structure is a tree structure.